

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-10 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15
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O 162143Z JUL 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0313
USICA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 BONN 12991

USICA

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING BY W. MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL,
SECRETARY OF TREASURY, PRESS BRIEFING ROOM,
TULPENFELD HOTEL, BONN, WEST GERMANY, 7:45 PM,
JULY 16, 1978

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE PRESS BRIEFING
HELD BY SECRETARY OF TREASURY BLUMENTHAL, JULY 16,
1978, BONN:

MR. POWELL: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I APOLOGIZE FOR
THE VERY LENGTHY DELAY HERE. PART OF IT, OF COURSE, WAS
BECAUSE THE SESSION RAN OVER. THE OTHER PART WAS
BECAUSE THERE WERE A COUPLE OF ITEMS WE WANTED TO CHECK
IN TERMS OF AGREEMENTS THAT WERE REACHED DURING THE
CONFERENCE BEFORE WE CAME OUT AND TALKED TO YOU. WE
THINK WE NOW KNOW. I WILL TURN YOU OVER TO SECRETARY
BLUMENTHAL.

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SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: LADIES AND GENTLEMENT, LET ME
TRY TO GIVE YOU A SHORT SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE DAY. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, OF STATE, HAVE
COVERED FIVE PARTS OF THE AGENDA BY NOW. THESE
RELATE TO GROWTH, TO INFLATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENERGY
AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY PROBLEMS.

NO SPECIFIC LANGUAGE HAS AS YET BEEN AGREED TO. THAT LANGUAGE IS BEING WORKED ON AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATION TOMORROW.

I THINK IT IS ALREADY POSSIBLE TO CHARACTERIZE THIS PARTICULAR SUMMIT AS ONE THAT IS ON THE WAY TO A SUBSTANTIAL RESULT.

THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENCE OF A LARGE, ENCOURAGINGLY LARGE, AREA OF AGREEMENT TOWARD A CONCRETE AND CONCERTED ACTION PROGRAM BY THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE, A PROGRAM THAT WILL BE CONCISE AND MEANINGFUL IN ITS NATURE.

ON THE VARIOUS POINTS THAT WERE COVERED, I MIGHT SUMMARIZE FOR YOU THE COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN STATING THE SITUATION AND HIS POLICIES IN THE UNITED STATES. WITH REGARD TO GROWTH, HE INDICATED THAT THE UNITED STATES MANAGED TO LIVE UP TO THE GOALS THAT HAD BEEN SET A YEAR AGO IN LONDON WITH REGARD TO LAST YEAR; THAT HE EXPECTED GROWTH THIS YEAR AND NEXT TO BE SLOWER IS AND TO EXCEED FOUR PERCENT IN REAL TERMS; AND THAT HE CONSIDERED THAT TO BE SATISFACTORY AND AS A RATE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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GROWTH THAT WOULD MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE OTHER MAJOR OBJECTIVE WHICH HE HAD, WHICH WAS THAT OF REDUCING INFLATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN THAT REGARD HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS DETERMINED TO PURSUE A VERY TIGHT FISCAL POLICY, THAT IN THAT CONNECTION IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO DO HIS UTMOST TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET SIGNIFICANTLY FOR 1979, AND EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANTLY FOR 1980. AND THAT TOGETHER WITH THE REST OF HIS ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM, HE EXPECTED THAT TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE RATE OF INFLATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

HE DID EXPLAIN WHAT HAD HAPPENED WITH REGARD TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES IN THE UNITED STATES. IN THAT REGARD, ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS INDICATED THAT THIS WAS CLEARLY A MODEL THAT THEY HOPED TO FOLLOW IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT HAD NOT BEEN REDUCED BY THE

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SAME AMOUNT; AND CLEARLY, THIS WAS A VERY GOOD RESULT
FOR THE UNITED STATES.

ON THE QUESTION OF ENERGY, THE PRESIDENT INDICATED
THAT ALREADY A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE
IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY
IN THE UNITED STATES RELATED TO GNP, HAD BEEN REDUCED
BY EIGHT PERCENT IN RELATION TO THAT GNP. SECONDLY,
THAT HE FELT THAT GOOD PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN
THE CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO HIS ENERGY LEGISLATION.

HE TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT FOUR OF THE FIVE PARTS OF
HIS ENERGY PROGRAM HAD NOW BEEN APPROVED BY THE
CONFERENCE COMMITTEES; THAT HE EXPECTED THREE OF THEM
TO BE FINALLY ACTED ON WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. THAT
HE EXPECTED THE FOURTH ONE ALSO TO BE SIMILARLY
ENACTED, ALTHOUGH AFTER DEBATE IN THE SENATE AND THAT
HE WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE FIFTH AND FINAL
PART; AND THAT HE ALSO EXPECTED POSITIVE ACTION FROM
THE CONGRESS ON THAT.

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HE DID INDICATE THAT THAT PROGRAM WOULD RESULT IN A REDUCTION OF IMPORTS OF ENERGY INTO THE UNITED STATES BY WELL IN EXCESS OF TWO MILLION BARRELS A DAY IN 1985; AND HE DESCRIBED THE OTHER PARTS OF HIS PROGRAM WITH REGARD TO ENERGY.

THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST YEAR AND THE RECENT SUGGESTIONS EMANATING FROM THE EEC MEETING JUST HELD IN BREMEN WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EUROPEAN -- GREATER EUROPEAN MONETARY INTEGRATION WAS ALSO DISCUSSED THIS AFTERNOON.

IN THAT REGARD, THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ALWAYS FAVORED GREATER ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN EUROPE; IN TRADE AS WELL AS IN MONETARY MATTERS, THAT THAT ATTITUDE CONTINUES AT THE PRESENT TIME; THAT HE SHARES IT --BUT THAT OBVIOUSLY IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ENDORSE THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM THAT IS NOW BEING DISCUSSED FOR MANY ELEMENTS OF THAT PROGRAM ARE AS YET UNKNOWN. AND WE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW A GREAT DEAL MORE ABOUT IT BEFORE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO COMMENT.

HE DID EXPRESS THE HOPE AND HE WAS REASSURED ON THAT POINT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED AS THIS PROGRAM IS FURTHER ELABORATED SO THAT WE CAN CONSULT CLOSELY WITH OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND LEARN EXACTLY WHAT THE ELEMENTS OF THAT PROGRAM WILL BE -- AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON IT AS IT IS BEING ELABORATED.

I THINK THAT, GENERALLY SPEAKING, IS A SUMMARY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY. AS I SAID, THE PRECISE LANGUAGE DEALING WITH THESE FIVE ELEMENTS IS NOW BEING PREPARED AND THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS WILL LOOK AT THAT IN THE MORNING. I WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL US WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER HEARD FROM THE OTHERS ON THOSE FIVE POINTS?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE MAJOR EMPHASIS BY THE OTHER COUNTRIES WAS ON THE PROBLEMS OF NEED TO CONTROL INFLATION IN ALL COUNTRIES, NOT MERELY IN THE UNITED STATES. INDEED, THERE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, SOME COUNTRIES HERE THAT HAVE RATES OF

INFLATION SUBSTANTIALLY IN EXCESS OF THAT
OF THE UNITED STATES.

SECONDLY, THAT THE PROBLEM OF ENERGY AND THE NEED
TO LIMIT AND REDUCE ENERGY IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED
STATES WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEM. SO THAT AS
FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED,
INFLATION, ENERGY AND THE MONETARY PROBLEMS WERE
STRESSED BY HIM.

I SHOULD FURTHER SAY THAT ALL OF THE
PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT GIVEN THE INCREASING DEGREE
OF INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES
INVOLVED, THERE WERE, IN VIRTUALLY EVERY MATTER, MUTUAL
RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT THE KIND OF COOPERATION

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THAT WAS BEING DISCUSSED HERE WOULD ENABLE ALL OF US
TO CARRY OUT OUR MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES BETTER.

QUESTION: YOU HAVEN'T MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT
GROWTH. WHAT DID THE PRESIDENT HEAR ABOUT GROWTH
SPECIFICALLY FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT HE
FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ALL OF THE COUNTRIES HERE
DO THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN, AND WHERE

NECESSARY ENDORSE RATES OF REAL GROWTH ON A NONINFLATIONARY BASIS. HE WAS ASSURED BY ALL OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING THE CHANCELLOR, THAT THIS WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL AND THAT ALL COUNTRIES WERE WILLING TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO ENSURE THAT THIS BE DONE.

I DON'T WANT TO QUOTE OR COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON WHAT THE CHANCELLOR SAID. I WOULD RATHER COMMENT ON OUR OWN STATEMENTS IN THAT REGARD.

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QUESTION: WHERE DO WE STAND ON TRADE? WAS IT DISCUSSED?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: TRADE WAS NOT DISCUSSED TODAY. IT WILL BE DISCUSSED TOMORROW.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, MR. SCHMIDT SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE A GENERAL STATEMENT THAT THEY WOULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON GROWTH, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION. THEN HE SAID THERE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC STATEMENTS APPLICABLE TO EACH COUNTRY IN THE EEC. WILL THOSE SPECIFIC STATEMENTS INVOLVE SPECIFIC GROWTH TARGETS FOR THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES INVOLVED?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THE SPECIFIC STATEMENTS WILL BE CONCISE AND CONCRETE. AS I SAID, THE EXACT LANGUAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. THAT IS STILL BEING DRAFTED. I REALLY CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY HOW IT WILL BE EXPRESSED. WE WILL HAVE TO SEE WHAT THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS APPROVE TOMORROW.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF SPECIFIC STATEMENTS? WHAT IS MEANT BY THAT?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THEY WILL BE CLEAR, SPECIFIC, CONCISE STATEMENTS. THEY WILL TAKE VARIOUS FORMS. BUT THEY WILL GIVE VERY CONCRETE INDICATIONS AS TO WHAT THE POLICIES AND THE GOALS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARE.

QUESTION: DID THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SAY ANYTHING TO THE EFFECT THAT IF CONGRESS DOES NOT PASS THE FIFTH, THE OIL EQUALIZATION, PART OF HIS
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ENERGY PROGRAM, HE WOULD BY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MOVE
TO CURB IMPORTS OF FOREIGN OIL --

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT ASKED
THAT --

QUESTION: -- BY A CERTAIN DATE?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT ASKED
THAT QUESTION AND DID NOT SAY THIS. WHAT THE
COUNTRIES ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN -- AND THAT
APPLIES TO ALL OF THE COUNTRIES HERE -- IS THE EFFECT
OF PARTICULAR ACTIONS. QUESTIONS OF TACTICS, QUESTIONS
OF THE STEPS THAT ARE TAKEN TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS
REALLY ARE OF LESS INTEREST. SO THE DISCUSSION WAS
IN TERMS OF POLICIES, GOALS AND WHAT IS INTENDED TO
BE DONE IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES RATHER THAN WITH
REGARD TO SPECIFIC STEPS THAT INDIVIDUAL PARLIA-
MENTS OR CONGRESSES MAY TAKE.

QUESTION: MAY I FOLLOW THAT UP BECAUSE THE
PRESIDENT HAS ON THREE OR FOUR OCCASIONS SAID THAT
HE MIGHT DO THAT IN THE FUTURE. IS THAT STILL
HIS POLICY? OR BY NOT SAYING SOMETHING TO HIS
COLLEAGUES HERE, HAS HE IN FACT BACKED AWAY FROM THAT
POLICY?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: I DON'T THINK THAT YOU

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CAN DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS AS TO WHAT THE POLICIES
OF THE PRESIDENT OR THE ADMINISTRATION ARE WITH REGARD
TO MY REPORT AS TO WHAT HE SAID IN THE MEETING.
I AM MERELY INDICATING TO YOU THAT THAT ISSUE DID NOT
COME UP IN THIS WAY IN THE MEETING AND, THEREFORE,
THE PRESIDENT DID NOT COMMENT ON IT.

QUESTION: WITHOUT REFERENCE TO HOW OR WHEN OR WHAT
KINDS OF STEPS ARE TO BE TAKEN, IS THERE AGREEMENT ON
THE AMOUNT OF REDUCTION IN IMPORTS THE UNITED
STATES IS TO MAKE BY A CERTAIN DATE?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: AS I INDICATED TO YOU, THE
PRESIDENT, IN HIS COMMENTS TO HIS COLLEAGUES,
STATED THE GOALS THAT HE HAS IN MIND FOR THE UNITED
STATES WITH REGARD TO THE ENERGY PROGRAM. AND AS
I INDICATED, THAT INCLUDES VERY SPECIFICALLY THE GOAL
OF REDUCING IMPORTS OF ENERGY INTO THE UNITED
STATES BY A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT EXCEEDING TWO MILLION
BARRELS PER DAY BY 1985. SO HE DID REFER TO THAT VERY
SPECIFICALLY IN HIS COMMENTS.

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QUESTION: THE AMOUNT DOES NOT SEEM LIKE ALL THAT
MUCH BY THAT DATE. WHAT WAS THEIR REACTION TO THAT?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THEIR REACTION TO THE
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AS TO HIS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
AND
AND HIS POLICIES WITH REGARD TO ENERGY, GENERALLY
SPEAKING, WAS POSITIVE.

QUESTION: CAN YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT
WHICH COUNTRIES WANTED HOW MUCH MORE?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: I DIDN'T SAY THAT ANY COUNTRY
WANTED MORE. I AM ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION BY SAYING
THAT THE REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT
ON ENERGY WAS POSITIVE.

QUESTION: COULD YOU ELABORATE A LITTLE BIT BY
WHAT YOU MEAN BY GENERALLY POSITIVE?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: I MEAN JUST WHAT I SAY, IT WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE. THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC CRITICISM OF THE NATURE OF ONE COUNTRY SAYING IT IS NOT ENOUGH OR YOU OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. THEY LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY AND THE REACTION WAS POSITIVE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY --

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: LET'S TAKE IT ONE AT A TIME.

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QUESTION: THESE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN PUBLIC IN TERMS OF THE IMPACT OF THE ENERGY BILL FOR A LONG TIME. THE CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION ON THAT BILL IS EQUALLY PUBLIC. YET, BEFORE THE SUMMIT THERE WAS SOME VERY STRONG STATEMENTS MADE BY PEOPLE FROM JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNING THE NEED FOR U.S. ACTION.

WHY IS IT THAT THESE COUNTRIES WERE SO SATISFIED WITH NOTHING MORE THAN A RESTATEMENT OF PREVIOUS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THE PRESIDENT WENT INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL TO EXPLAIN THE STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION -- HIS EXPECTATION WITH REGARD TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. AND HE WENT INTO EQUALLY

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GREAT DETAIL, PUTTING THE LIKELY ACTION BY THE CONGRESS
THE ACTION THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN, INTO THE
OVERALL CONTEXT OF HIS ENERGY PROGRAM.

THAT SEEMED TO SATISFY THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS.
WHY THEY ARE SATISFIED, I REALLY CAN'T TELL YOU. YOU
ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ASK THEM.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, THIS MEANS THE PRESIDENT
IS NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT HE
ADVOCATED AND WHAT CONGRESS IS ABOUT TO DO ANYWAY --
THAT IS ON THE FOUR PARTS OF THE PROGRAM.

THE TWO MILLION BARRELS BY 1985 DOES NOT INCLUDE THE
CRUDE OIL TANKS, ISN'T THAT CORRECT? SO THE
PRESIDENT IS NOT GOING TO DO ANY MORE ON ENERGY DESPITE
THE DEMANDS OF OTHER NATIONS THAT HE DO MORE.

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: I THINK THAT IS A CONCLUSION
THAT I WOULD DRAW FROM THAT AND I DON'T THINK YOU
SHOULD DRAW FROM THAT.
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AS I INDICATED BEFORE, LET ME RESTATE IT, THE
PRESIDENT WENT INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL TO EXPLAIN
TO HIS COLLEAGUES THE ACTION THAT CONGRESS HAS ALREADY
TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE FIRST FOUR PARTS OF THE
ENERGY PROGRAM.

HE FURTHER STATED HIS EXPECTATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL
PASSAGE WITH REGARD TO THE FIFTH PART OF THE PROGRAM
AND HE RESTATED HIS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE
ENTIRE ENERGY PROGRAM. PUTTING THAT INTO AN OVERALL
CONTEXT AND EXPLAINING WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WITH
REGARD TO ALL FIVE PARTS OF THAT PROGRAM, AND RESTATING
HIS COMMITMENT TO SEE THAT THOSE GOALS
ARE ACHIEVED REPRESENTED HIS OVERALL STATEMENT
THAT SEEMED TO BE SATISFACTORY TO THE OTHER

PARTICIPANTS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ON THE GROWTH ISSUES -- TO TRY TO PUT IT IN A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC TERMS -- THE EXPECTATION OR THE HOPE OF A LOT OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING YOURSELF IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN AND GERMANY WOULD TAKE SOMEWHAT SUBSTANTIAL -- NOT SOMEWHAT, BUT SUBSTANTIAL STEPS TO INCREASE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEMAND IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

I CAN'T TELL FROM YOUR LANGUAGE TODAY WHETHER YOU FELT THIS IS A LIKELY RESULT OF THIS SUMMIT. DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO DO SO?

SECRETARY: BLUMENTHAL: WE HAVE TO SEE THE PRECISE LANGUAGE. AS I INDICATED, THAT HAS NOT YET BEEN PUT BEFORE THE VARIOUS HEADS OF DELEGATION. BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE STATEMENTS TODAY INDICATED THAT ALL OF THE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING, IN PARTICULAR, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND THE JAPANESE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE, IF NECESSARY, SUBSTANTIAL MEASURES. CERTAINLY, THAT IS ENCOURAGING TO US.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WITH THE EXCEPTION, I BELIEVE, OF ITALY, NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THE SEVEN NATIONS REPRESENTED HERE HAVE ACHIEVED THE SPECIFIC GROWTH TARGETS THAT WERE ESTABLISHED AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE. I AM WONDERING IN VIEW OF THE FACT OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE COMING OUT OF THIS IS A LESS SPECIFIC STATEMENT OF INTENTION, WHAT ARE THE GROUNDS FOR YOUR OPTIMISM?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: IN THE FIRST PLACE, I THINK YOU OUGHT TO WITHHOLD JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE STATEMENT THAT WILL COME OUT OF THIS MEETING WILL BE, AS YOU CHARACTERIZE IT, LESS SPECIFIC. I AM NOT SURE THAT THAT REALLY IS GOING TO BE THE CASE.

SECONDLY, I WOULD SAY THAT CERTAINLY THE UNITED STATES, GENERALLY SPEAKING, ACHIEVED ITS GROWTH TARGET. WE GREW LAST YEAR BY ALMOST 6 PERCENT. THAT CORRESPONDS TO WHAT WE INDICATED WE THOUGHT WAS LIKELY TO HAPPEN.

I THINK THAT THE KIND OF AGREEMENTS THAT WERE

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DISCUSSED TODAY AND AS IT INDICATED, THEY WILL BE
STATED IN A CONCISE AND MEANINGFUL WAY, AND THAT
THEY WILL BE CONCRETE IN NATURE, WILL IN MY JUDGMENT
MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SUCCESS IS BEING ACHIEVEDM

QUESTION: ARE YOU SAYING THAT EACH COUNTRY ISGOING
TO MAKE A COMMITMENT, A FORMAL COMMITMENT IN A GROUP
OF STATEMENT IN ADDITION TO A JOINT COMMUNIQUE?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THAT IS CORRECT. EACH
COUNTRY WILL BE MAKING SPECIFIC STATEMENTS. THEY
WILL BE CONCISE AND CONCRETE AND WILL DEAL WITH
EACH COUNTRY'S INDIVIDUAL SITUATION. THAT IS
CORRECT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY,AS WAS POINTED OUT JUST
PRIOR TO THIS CONFERENCE, THERE ARE A GOOD MANY
RATHER ACRIMONIOUS STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT AGAINST OTHERS. IN VIEW OF THAT, WHAT
WAS THE EXCHANGE LIKE AT THE TABLE? WAS ALL OF
THIS GLOSSED OVER? WERE ALL OF THESE STATEMENTS
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SIMPLY PUBLIC RELATION, HOME CONSUMPTION TYPE
OF THINGS WHICH DIDN'T REACH THE CONFERENCE TABLE?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO
ACRIMONY. BUT IT WAS A FRANK AND CORDIAL EXCHANGE.
COUNTRIES CLEARLY INDICATED THEIR INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS.
EACH OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SPOKE QUITE OPENLY
ABOUT THE PARTICULAR CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO OTHER
COUNTRIES. NOTHING WAS GLOSSED OVER. BUT I THINK
IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE GENERAL DISCUSSION WAS
NOT ONLY CORDIAL, BUT DID SHOW A VERY LARGE
AREA OF AGREEMENT AS TO THE KINDS OF POLICIES THAT
SHOULD BE PURSUED INDIVIDUALLY AND JOINTLY. AND I
THINK YOU WILL SEE THAT REFLECTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE
WHEN IT IS ISSUED TOMORROW.

QUESTION: IN DEALING WITH THE DOLLAR, MR.
SECRETARY, DID THE PRESIDENT DEViate IN ANY WAY
FROM THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION THAT THE DOLLAR
HAS TO BE DEALT WITH IN UNDAMENTALS, OR DID HE
INDICATE ANY GREATER WILLINGNESS THAT IN THE PAST
TO INTERVENE MORE OPENLY IN CURRENT MARKETS TO

SUPPORT THE DOLLAR THAN HE HAS IN THE PAST?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THE PRESIDENT STATED THE
U.S. POSITION AND STATED IT MAKING CLEAR THAT IT
IS NOT DIFFERENT IN ANY WAY THAN THE POSITION THAT
WE HAVE EXPLAINED AND FOLLOWED IN THE PAST.

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QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A POINT OF INFORMATION,
SOMETHING THAT YOU SAID TO HELEN. I TALKED WITH

HELMUT SCHMIDT ON FRIDAY AND HE TOLD ME THEN THAT HE
DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY FIRM AGREEMENTS AT
ALL COMING OUT OF THIS BUT THAT IT WOULD BE MORE

A STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE. HAS THAT
BEEN CHANGED?

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: I WOULD SAY THAT THE STATE-
MENT WILL GO BEYOND JUST THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES. IT
WILL BE CONCISE AND IT WILL BE SPECIFIC.

THE PRESS: THANK YOU.

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: THANK YOU VDRY MUCH.
END QUOTE (AT 8.00 P.M. CET)
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Message Attributes

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Film Number: D780292-0567
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From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780755/aaaabugn.tel
Line Count: 721
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30038072-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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